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REMARKS

Claims 1-33 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. A marked-up version of all pending claims is found at pages 2-5 of this Reply. Claims 1-20 are allowed. Claims 21-33 have been cancelled herein.

Applicant's representative appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 1-20 are allowed, and thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephonic interview on June 29, 2004. Although agreement was reached during the interview regarding amendments to incorporate certain aspects that would, at a minimum, serve to overcome the rejections of independent claims 21, 26, and 30, no agreement was reached with regard to entry of such amendments after final rejection in order to place the subject claims in condition for allowance. Therefore, claims 21-33 have been cancelled herein to place the present application in condition for allowance. Applicant's representative respectfully reserves the right to pursue the cancelled claims in a continuation application upon the Examiner's indication that the subject application is allowed.

Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein.

II. Rejection of Claims 21-33 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 21-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Potter *et al.* (U.S. 6,157,393) in view of Aranda (U.S. 5,321,809). This rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons. Claims 21-33 have been cancelled herein in order to advance the present application toward issuance. Applicant's representative will pursue the cancelled claims in a continuation upon an indication from the Examiner that the present application is in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

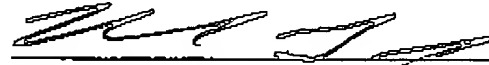
The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063.

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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